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14 May 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR/CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: NIE-81: Probable Soviet Courses of Action with Respect to Germany, through Mid-1954

1. In pursuance of our recent discussion on methods by which the views of the DCI and the DDCI on draft NIE's may be obtained, I attach a copy of NIE-81. We hope to complete the working level study of this draft at a meeting which begins at 2:00 Friday, 15 May.

2. Briefly, the draft concludes that the Kremlin is unlikely to attempt to bring all of Germany under Soviet control, or to adopt courses of action involving grave risk of general war. However, we do expect a vigorous political warfare campaign; most of the draft considers the forms this campaign may adopt.

3. We believe the campaign will not include moves which would jeopardize Soviet control over East Germany. However, we do not exclude entirely the withdrawal of Soviet forces if such a move promised commensurate gains. Will you be good enough to study paragraphs 7 and 8 to see if you agree with these judgments? We believe our policy-makers should be prepared for a move which almost certainly will not be made, but which cannot be excluded entirely.

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Acting Assistant Director
National Estimates

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